

civil rights leader and legal trailblazer that our country lost on April 28, 2019 at the age of 96.

When Judge Damon J. Keith was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 to serve as Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, it was at a time when there were very few African American federal judges.

Judge Damon J. Keith said, "I never had a black teacher. . . . There wasn't a black police officer above the rank of sergeant. There were no black judges. There were not black elected officials."

Judge Damon J. Keith's appointment to the U.S. District Court was the same year that Thurgood Marshall was nominated and confirmed to the Supreme Court Bench as an associate justice.

When Judge Damon J. Keith was later nominated by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the federal court of appeals, he was the sixth African American appointed to serve on a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The sixth.

Judge Keith made a series of landmark decisions that changed the social and legal landscape of this country throughout his 52 years of service on the bench, including:

Davis v. School District of City of Pontiac, 309 F. Supp. 734 (E.D. Mich. 1970), which ordered citywide buses to integrate and helped integrate Pontiac public schools.

Judge Keith stood up to the KKK with this ruling and it became the first case to extend federal court-ordered integration to the North.

Then, Judge Keith ruled that President Nixon and U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell did not have the right to wiretap in domestic security cases without a court order in *United States v. United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan*, 407 U.S. 297 (1972).

That same year Judge Keith ruled in *Garrett v. City of Hamtramck*, 335 F. Supp. 16 (E.D. Mich. 1971), that Hamtramck practiced so-called "Negro removal" under the guise of urban renewal and ordered the city to build new public housing.

In *Stamps v. Detroit Edison Co.*, 365 F. Supp. 87 (E.D. 1973), Judge Keith ordered Detroit Edison to pay 4 million to black employees and start an affirmative action program in a historic job-discrimination case.

Furthering integration of public spaces and jobs, in *Baker v. City of Detroit*, 483 F. Supp. 919 (E.D. 1979), Judge Keith ordered the Detroit Police Department to carry out Detroit Mayor, Coleman Young's plan to integrate.

And in *Detroit Free Press v. Ashcroft*, 195 F. Supp. 2d 937 (E.D. 2002), he upheld a lower court's decision prohibiting the Justice Department from barring the public and press from deportation hearings involving people suspected of supporting terrorism.

Judge Keith did his job amid death threats and the obstacles of racial bigotry.

Judge Keith's dedication to civil rights and civil liberties came from a life dealing with racial inequality as a soldier and a young man.

Judge Damon J. Keith was born July 4, 1922.

Judge Keith was the grandson of slaves and the son of a Ford factory worker who made 5 dollars a day.

Judge Keith was youngest of seven children and he was the first member of his family to earn a college degree.

Once Judge Keith graduated from college during World War II in 1943, he enlisted in a segregated U.S. Army.

Judge Keith recalled the three years he spent in the Quartermaster Corps during World War II in Europe as "absolutely degrading," partly because the "all-colored" unit did not have a single black officer.

After Judge Keith was discharged in 1946 as a sergeant, he returned home to experience White German soldiers riding in the front seats of buses and dining in restaurants where he was not welcome.

Judge Keith's experience seeing African American soldiers being treated with less respect than White German prisoners of war, made him vow to fight for civil rights here at home.

So, Judge Keith attended and graduated from Howard University Law School with his JD in 1949.

While in law school, Judge Keith helped research civil rights cases, participated in mock trials and watched rising legal stars, like Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP's chief legal counsel, practice his legal arguments and argue cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

After Judge Keith graduated law school in 1949, he went on to not only pass the bar but found one of the first Black law firms in Detroit city.

Judge Keith was a man dedicated to change and as he climbed the legal ranks, Judge Keith brought women and minorities up with him, not just African-Americans but also Hispanics and Asians.

Judge Keith hired more minorities law clerks than any other federal judge and encouraged those he helped to do the same for other young minorities.

But, not only should Judge Keith be rewarded for what he has done as judge, but for what he has done as a man.

Judge Keith became the surrogate father and guardian for Willie Horton, guiding the young athlete from a troubled neighborhood into manhood and to stardom with the Detroit Tigers.

It was also Judge Keith who came to Rosa Parks's rescue in 1994 when the Civil Rights icon had been attacked by a burglar in her Detroit home.

Judge Keith helped her find a safe place to live in the aftermath.

Judge Keith's eldest daughter, Cecile Keith, said Saturdays was spent with their father, who would take them to dance classes, music lessons, and choir rehearsals, and afterward they would go out for hamburger and French fries.

Judge Keith took his children to the movies, Tiger games, played ball in their backyard, and he taught them how to ride bikes.

Judge Keith was more than a civil rights activist and he was more than a trailblazer.

Judge Keith was also a father and husband.

Judge Keith was a man dedicated to his wife, family, and to his community.

Judge Keith has always been a beacon of justice and we are a better country because of his work and are forever in his debt.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained with district

matters and missed the following votes. I would have voted "Yes" on roll call vote 218, and "Yes" on roll call vote 219.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL ALLEN ON HIS NEW POSITION AS NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE HEALTHCARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Allen for his promotion to National Chair of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA). Mr. Allen will rise from the position of Chief Financial Officer at OSF Health Care in Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. Allen began his career after earning an accounting degree from Illinois State University and a master's degree in healthcare administration from the University of Minnesota. Mr. Allen then went on to gain more than 25 years of experience in business and the healthcare industry—making him well qualified to take on this new role with the nation's largest membership organization for healthcare financial management executives and leaders. Leadership experience is something Mr. Allen gained in his 19 years as Chief Financial Officer for health systems and eight years in public accounting. Mr. Allen is no stranger to HFMA—he has been a member since 1993, and has chaired the Board of Examiners and served on the National Advisory Council. Mr. Allen will bring a new set of eyes to HFMA, having selected "Dare You to Move" as this year's theme to encourage members to get out of their comfort zone. I want to thank Mr. Allen for his work in healthcare and for his service to the Peoria community.

It is because of dedicated leaders like Michael Allen that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Michael Allen on his promotion to National Chair of the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

DOCTOR DAMORDARA RAJASEKHAR RETIRES AS PRESIDENT OF THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of the President of the San Bernardino County Medical Society, Dr. Damordara Rajasekhara, who will be completing his term on June 20, 2019.

Dr. Rajasekhara earned his medical degree in 1976 from Madras Medical College in India. Afterwards, he went on to serve his pediatric internship and residency at the University of Connecticut John Dempsey Hospital, and completed a fellowship in neonatal perinatal medicine at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Health Care. Dr. Rajasekhara began